

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

ANDREW MARVIN STEAN, JR,

Plaintiff,

v.

BELLINGHAM POLICE
DEPARTMENT; KEVIN BEAN;
DANTE ALEXANDER; ANDREW
WASSEL,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 2:24-cv-01209-JNW

ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on pro se Plaintiff Andrew Marvin Stean, Jr.'s, Motion for Court-Appointed Expert to Review Body-Worn Camera Footage, Dkt. No. 31, and Motion to Extend Discovery Deadline, Dkt. No. 32. For the reasons explained below, both motions are DENIED.

Stean asks the Court to appoint an expert to review the police body-camera footage that Defendants produced in discovery, and to assess the footage for possible tampering. Dkt. No. 31; *see also* Dkt. No. 22 (flash drive with video footage). Under Federal Rule of Evidence 706, the Court has discretionary authority to appoint an expert to help evaluate evidence. *See Walker v. Am. Home Shield Long Term*

1 *Disability Plan*, 180 F.3d 1065, 1071 (9th Cir.1999). The Court finds no reason to
2 exercise that authority here. In the present procedural posture of this litigation, the
3 question of the authenticity of the police body-camera footage is not properly before
4 the Court. Discovery is still underway, and Stean points to no live motion or other
5 dispute requiring the Court to authenticate or otherwise analyze the footage.
6 Expert review at this stage would not advance the litigation. As such, this request is
7 DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE. Dkt. No. 31.

8 Stean also moves for an extension of time to respond to Defendants' discovery
9 requests. Dkt. No. 32. As the Court already explained when Stean submitted a
10 similar motion in February, "Parties should only seek court involvement in disputes
11 over discovery deadlines after they have attempted—in good faith—to agree on a
12 discovery timeline and that attempt has failed." *See* Dkt. No. 30 at 3. Stean includes
13 no indication that he tried to meet and confer with Defendants in good faith before
14 filing this motion. The motion is therefore DENIED. Dkt. No. 32. The Court
15 DIRECTS Stean not to file additional discovery-related motions without certifying
16 that he has attempted to resolve the issues addressed inside through a good-faith
17 meet-and-confer with opposing counsel.

18 It is so ORDERED.

19 Dated this 21st day of April, 2025.

20 

21 Jamal N. Whitehead
22 United States District Judge
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